



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

Vol. 52, Issue 48

16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Dec. 10, 2004

SPRAIN, STRAIN, FRACTURE CARE

Base sets up orthopedic clinic

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

An orthopedic clinic is the latest addition to Hurlburt Field's newly-renovated medical facility.

The clinic, which specializes in patient evaluation and treatment of "mostly sprains and strains" was established here approximately two months ago, but this week extended its care to full-day operations.

Although the clinic only operates one day a week and performs only basic orthopedic care such as diagnosing and caring for muscular and skeletal injuries, the specialization fills a void in the base medical community. The inception of the local clinic means patients can receive basic orthopedic care closer to home.

"We're committed to expanding the services we offer here as quickly as space and resources permit," said Col. Timothy Jex, 16th Medical Group commander. "This is just one step and I'm confident many more will follow, but this should make life a little better for our patients."

According to Lt. Col. Paul Skala, 16th Medical Support Squadron commander, the clinic is the result of exceptional teamwork between the medical providers and support staff.

"The tremendous benefits of this new clinic will be felt across Team Hurlburt as we continue to put our Airmen first by providing convenient and best of class medical care," he said.

"It's a major convenience for people," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Donald Sandercock, orthopedic surgeon. "We're here to provide a service for Hurlburt Field. People don't have to go to Eglin AFB to be seen."

Patient (Capt.) Wesley Butts, 39th Information Operations Squadron, agrees. Tuesday, he was seen for an injury to his Achilles tendon; an injury for which he'd otherwise have to travel at least 15 miles and wait an uncertain amount of time to receive care.

"I like the convenience of being seen on base," Captain Butts said. "All the services that we can have



Photo by Staff Sgt. Chris Jordan

here is only a benefit to military members and their families."

After Dr. Sandercock prescribes some basic rest to Capt. Butts, he's on his way, thankful he didn't require a shot, or worse yet, surgery.

For now, Dr. Sandercock is appreciative of being able to apply his medical expertise to patients at Hurlburt Field. However, he's still advocating for more complete orthopedic care here at home.

"In the near future, we'll be providing this service two days a week. I'm also hoping that it'll expand to a nearly full-service clinic," he said.

The Hurlburt Field orthopedic clinic doesn't straighten broken bones or perform fracture reductions, however the clinic is in the process of obtaining casting material to provide basic fracture care to patients who need it. Patients who require advanced orthopedic care must be seen at the Eglin AFB orthopedic clinic. Patients must be recommended to the orthopedic clinic by their primary care manager. For more information, call 881-2134/5.

Flu vaccine available for high-risk patients

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

According to 16th Medical Group officials, limited supplies of the flu vaccine are now available for all Department of Defense high-risk beneficiaries.

"This includes any high-risk patient who is eligible for medical care within the DOD/TRICARE system regardless of where they actually receive their medical care," said Capt. Derec Hudson, chief, Public Health Operations.

The vaccine will be available from 8 to 11:30 a.m., and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the immunization clinic on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. "No letter from the clinic or your doctor will be required for children ages 6-23 months, adults 65 years and older and pregnant women," said Captain Hudson. "Adults and children with chronic medical conditions will still require a letter or prescription from their doctor to verify their need for vaccination."

High-risk beneficiaries who are eligible to receive the flu shots include: children ages 6 to 23 months; adults older than 65; adults and children 2 years of age and older with chronic lung or heart disorders including heart disease and asthma; all women who are pregnant during the influenza season; adults and children 2 years of age and older with chronic metabolic diseases (including diabetes) kidney diseases, blood disorders (such as sickle cell anemia), or weakened immune systems, including persons with

See **SHOT**, Page 11

Safety briefings

A holiday safety briefing will be held at the base theater Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 7 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 7 a.m., 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. All 16th Special Operations Wing assigned military personnel must attend one of the briefings. All 16th SOW assigned Department of Defense civilians are highly encouraged to attend.

COMMANDO's last issue

The COMMANDO newspaper will produce its last issue for 2004, Dec. 17. All classified ads and Hurlburt Happening briefs need to be submitted no later than today in order to appear in the Dec. 17 issue. The next COMMANDO issue will be published Jan. 7. For more information, call the public affairs office at 884-7464 or e-mail commando@hurlburt.af.mil.

FWB Christmas parade



Military and community members line the streets to see the Fort Walton Beach parade

Page 10

Weather forecast

Friday – Partly cloudy,
High 72 Low 60

Saturday – Sunny,
High 65 Low 45

Sunday – Sunny and clear,
High 67 Low 42

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

DUI offenders relate experiences learned

By Tech. Sgt. Dan Neely
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – A Tyndall senior airman was leaving a Panama City restaurant parking lot when the tires of his sport utility vehicle squealed, gaining the attention of a city police officer nearby.

As far as the Airman was concerned, he had only consumed what he felt was a minimal amount of beer. He was startled to learn he registered a .12 alcohol content on the breathalyzer test, which meant he was driving under the influence, or DUI as it's better known.

How could this have happened to a military member who had heard all the warnings about the adverse consequences of drinking and driving – not to mention the safe alternatives?

"I knew there were consequences, but I never thought it could happen to me," he admitted.

The military part of his punishment came quickly: a letter of reprimand and placement in his unit's unfavorable information file, but there were many other ways his life and career suffered.

"With all of the fees and court costs, my financial situation is pretty bad right now," he said. "I have to do a lot of cutting back on spending on things I want or don't really need. I'm not sure how much my insurance is going to go up, but I'm not looking forward to that."

Adding to the misery of his consequences, his driver's license was suspended for six months off base and a full year on base.

"I have to depend on people for rides everywhere," he said. "I can't make plans without checking with another person first."

For a Tyndall second lieutenant, his DUI bust in December 1992 slammed the door on a prestigious education and training opportunity.

"It cost me my appointment to the Air Force Academy," he said.

The California native was just seven months from entering the academy when his decision to drive after drinking changed all that. Leaving his employer's Christmas party after drinking more than a dozen mixed drinks, the cadet candidate ignored his boss' plea to take a cab or get a ride home.

"At the time, I was actually afraid I'd have a problem getting a ride back to retrieve my car, so I decided to drive," he said.

After arguing with a parking garage attendant about the cost of a parking fee, the intoxicated driver stomped on the gas pedal of his sedan and broke through the flimsy yellow gate arm.

Drop that
phone call

The 16th Security Forces Squadron reminds base personnel that it is prohibited to use a cellular phone while driving. Violators may lose points on their driving record if the regulation is not adhered to.

"The next thing I remembered was swerving on the freeway to avoid hitting a gas truck, then seeing flashing blue lights behind me," he said. "I had to take a sobriety test and blew a .14. I was fried."

At the police station, he was booked and spent a night inside the facility's "drunk tank" amongst several other detainees. The next morning he was slapped with the first of many fines and associated costs yet to come.

"It started with a \$100 impound fee for my car," he recalled. "I lost my license for six months and my (auto-mobile) insurance (was canceled). My court fine was \$2,000 and my 12-week DUI classes were around \$500 to \$600. Then there were the mandatory two sessions of Alcoholics Anonymous."

"My insurance, which was normally \$110 a month increased to about \$500 a month because only one state-appointed insurance company would insure me. The DUI stayed on my record for three years. Then my lawyer fees were added on — about \$10,000 because the judge wanted to put me in jail a long time. I figure my DUI cost me nearly \$30,000."

As if the financial toll wasn't high enough, the DUI offender had to seek a waiver to permit him to enter his college's Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Despite the brutal reality of his consequences, the lieutenant keeps a healthy perspective on the experience.

"It could have been a lot worse. I could have killed someone, including myself," he said. "It took me seven years to recover from the full effect. Looking back, it was just plain stupid. It's something I'm still ashamed of, but I'll talk to anybody about it if it helps them understand the costs of drinking and driving." (AFPN)

Average cost of an Airman DUI

First year:

Immediate fine from civil authority: \$4,500

Average insurance increase: \$2,000

Loss of stripe: \$1,800

Total cost: \$8,300

Second year:

Insurance rates still high

Senior airman pushed another year: \$3,800

Two year total loss from the DUI you could get tonight: \$12,100

A 12-pack of beer at the shoppette costs \$12. Don't make that \$12 purchase tonight that could cost you \$12,000 tomorrow. Have a plan, don't drink and drive.

This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. It's published by the Northwest Florida Daily News, a private firm that isn't connected with the U.S. Air Force, under an exclusive written contract with the 16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

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COMMANDO articles are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts and supplements, doesn't constitute Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force or the Northwest Florida Daily News endorsement of the products or services advertised.

Equal opportunity

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

COMMANDO Classified ad policy

Free classified advertisements are available to Department of Defense military members, DOD civilians and retirees and their family members only. Advertisements are for the one-time sale of personal property only and will run only once per submission. Advertisements for businesses or income producing activities may not be printed. All advertisements must be manually typed into the advertising database computer located in the public affairs office in Building 90210, Suite 326. Mailed, faxed, e-mailed, phoned-in ads, etc. won't be accepted. All ads will run on a space available basis only. Submission of an advertisement doesn't guarantee its appearance in the Commando. The Commando staff reserves the right to edit or refuse classified advertisements due to inappropriate content, space considerations or other reasons deemed necessary. Paid advertisements may be submitted to the Daily News at 863-1111. This is the only way to guarantee an advertisement will run in the Commando.

Production

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced and all submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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DUI Tracker

Dec. 3-9 : 0 DUIs

This year: 41

DUIs for 2003: 54

Last DUI: 16th Operations Support Squadron, Nov. 25

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 1065

16th OG...14

16th MSG..22

16th MXG...38

16th MDG..267

As of Feb. 15, individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of Dec. 9.





Photo by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

Easy does it

Base personnel remove the boat **Seasick** from its long-standing home next to the entrance of the U.S. Highway 98 overpass on Nov. 22. The boat was stranded ashore from Hurricane Ivan.

Award-winning performance

Bronze Star awarded to Hurlburt sergeant

By 1st Lt. Nathan Broshear
505th CCW Public Affairs

An NCO working at the Air Operations Center Formal Training unit at the 505th Training Squadron, was honored for his work in Operation Iraqi Freedom during a ceremony Friday.

Staff Sgt. James Mabe was awarded the Bronze Star for his achievements by Maj. Gen. Stephen Goldfein, Air Warfare Center commander, during a commander's call at the 505th Command and Control Wing following General Goldfein's speech to the wing citing the importance of the unit's mission.

"I was humbled by the recognition I received," said Sergeant Mabe. "I never thought I would

attain a citation of this level."

During his deployment, Sergeant Mabe was the NCO in charge of Battle-field Universal Gateway Equipment.

While under enemy mortar and small arms attacks, he led his unit in counter-SCUD missions and helped to improve the Air Force's time-sensitive targeting techniques. As a member of a fast-moving communications team, he helped de-conflict airspace and coordinate friendly locations to ensure the safety of joint units.

All five members of Sergeant Mabe's team were awarded the Bronze Star for their work in creating new interoperability between Air Force cockpits and units on the ground.

Staff Sgt.
James Mabe

Spotlight on...

Daniel Jarvis

Rank/Duty Title:

Staff sergeant, Airborne Heavy Equipment Operator, Personnel Parachute Program Manager

Organization: 823rd RED HORSE Squadron

Hometown: Lesage, W.V.

Hobbies: Baseball, running, rollerblading, computers and cooking

Contribution to the mission: As the PPPM, Sergeant Jarvis is the liaison with the base's Aeronautical Records Management office, tracking all 31 J-coded UMD positions.

He also administers the required physical training tests and ensures all administrative needs are fulfilled to send volunteers to the Basic Airborne School.

Sergeant Jarvis coordinates parachute jumps made by all six units participating in the Airborne RED HORSE program with supporting bases and posts, such as Moody Air Force Base, Ga., and Fort Benning.

(Editor's Note: The Commando highlights Airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

CFC breakfast: CFC staff shows appreciation for another successful campaign

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

Hurlburt Field and Eglin Air Force Base posted some impressive numbers at the Combined Federal Campaign Breakfast Dec. 2.

Hurlburt surpassed its goal of \$425,000 by raising \$433,427, and Eglin AFB raised \$761,870 with a goal of \$650,000.

The breakfast, which was held at the Air Armament Museum, was an opportunity for the CFC staff to recognize the people and organizations that helped make this year's campaign a success, according to Ken Winzeler, CFC director Okaloosa/Walton County.

"I'm very ecstatic with how the campaign turned out this year," Mr. Winzeler said. "With Hurricane Ivan arriving just

weeks before the campaign started, we weren't quite sure how things were going to go, but the community pulled together and I think it's just wonderful how everyone showed their support."

Contributions toward the campaign also came in from other federal departments such as the U.S. Postal Service and Social Security Office, which helped bring the grand total to more than \$1.2 million.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

Its mission is to support and promote philanthropy through a program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

For more information about CFC visit cfc.cybertron.com.

Troop gives time to keep intoxicated Airmen off road

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

"All real 'war stories' have one common theme, the bond between soldiers. This bond is what inspires heroes to face certain death to serve and save each other," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, to an Airmen Against Drunk Driving volunteer.

Senior Airman Andy Mostajo, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, was honored Monday for selflessly giving his time to watch out for his fellow wingmen.

As an AADD volunteer, Airman Mostajo has driven home several

intoxicated Airmen, who may have otherwise attempted to drive themselves home.

"You have proven yourself as an asset to your community by making the streets safer for our children and us," Colonel Mannon told him. "Your volunteerism has prevented individuals from making serious mistakes that could've easily resulted in injury or loss of life."

To award Airman Mostajo for exceeding 200 hours of volunteer service, Colonel Mannon presented him with a letter of appreciation and an AADD plaque.

Chief Master Sgt. Richard Small, 16th SOW command chief, also

stressed the importance of all Hurlburt Field Airmen giving their time to volunteer as an AADD driver.

"Each one of us needs to give at least one day a year to volunteer," he said. "The AADD program desperately needs your help. Thirty percent of the volunteer slots usually have to be filled by the program coordinator and manager. Those are lives and careers being saved."

The AADD program, which is operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, provides a free ride home for all intoxicated Airmen in an anonymous manner. For more information about AADD or to volunteer, call 884-8844.

24-hour Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline:

Hurlburt Field 884-6322

Air Force (800) 538-8429

Department of Defense
(800) 424-9098



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ebony Pierre

Faith in foxholes

The 16th Special Operations Wing vice commander enjoys a free lunch provided by the base chapel Dec. 2 during the "Faith in the Foxholes" prayer luncheon.

"Faith in the Foxholes" is a monthly event hosted by the base chapel that includes a free lunch followed by a guest speaker, who will share how God has been faithful in their life. The 16th SOW vice commander was the first speaker for the series.

The chapel would like to have all base organizations partipate in the luncheons – the chapel will provide the funds for the event, and the squadrons will set up, prepare, serve and clean up the meal.

As of now, the luncheon is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month from noon to 1 p.m. All base personnel are welcome to attend. For more information, call 884-7795.

Senior mentors

Sharing lessons of past with leadership, Airmen

By 1st Lt. Nathan Broshear
505th CCW Public Affairs

Joe Hurd is joking with a lieutenant in front of the 505th Command and Control Wing headquarters at Hurlburt Field. Commenting on the weather, the gray-haired senior citizen smiles and points to the beaches located nearby. While everyone is dressed in BDUs, Mr. Hurd wears civilian casual today with an orange polo shirt.

The only telltale sign Mr. Hurd was once Lt. Gen. Hurd, commander of 7th Air Force, is the tight haircut he continues to wear despite retiring five years ago. On this day, as a senior mentor, he was about to share his years of military experience with the next generation of Air Force leaders for the upcoming BLUE FLAG exercise.

Five retired general officers comprise the Air

Force's Senior Mentor Program: Mr. Hurd, Mike Short, Steve Croker, Gene Santarelli and Chuck Heflebower.

These exclusive cadre of high-level trainers are the key elements of Hurlburt Field's Operational Command Training Program, as they work with the 505th CCW to provide the Air Force's top warfighters with peer-level feedback and training during exercises across the United States and around the world.

The Senior Mentors Program originated in 2000, when the Chief of Staff of the Air Force realized as each generation of warfighters retired, lessons and life-experiences were lost – lessons component commanders had to relearn with each new conflict.

In addition, the new generation of commanders lacked experienced peers to guide them through the joint environment during exercises and training events.

"The question arose: Who's going to give our senior commanders, the Joint Forces Air and Space Component commander or Air and Space Operations Center commander the critical feedback to change tactics or processes?" said Lt. Col.

White House staff seeks applicants for assistance program

All U.S. citizens (except federally-employed civilians) are eligible to apply for the White House Fellowship Program.

This program seeks to draw exceptionally promising people from throughout the nation, providing them first-hand experience in the process of governing our nation.

Annually, 11 to 19 U.S. citizens are selected to work full-time for one year as special assistants to senior executives in cabinet-level agencies or in the executive office of the president. There are no restrictions for age, sex, race, or physical requirements. Military personnel are encouraged to apply as this program does enhance executive development. Contact your local military personnel flight customer service element for further information or visit <http://www.whitehousefellows.gov/>.

Jim Eastman, the OCTP program director. "The value of the senior mentor lies in their unique ability to provide the 'over the shoulder'-type training to general officers and commanders. They've got the experience, culture and credibility to positively influence the way we do business in an AOC."

With the tempo of exercises and training events across the Air Force, generated or supported by the 505th CCW, these "retired" senior officers travel up to 125 days per year. OCTPs observer-trainers, a team of retired field grade officer subject matter experts, have taught lessons in advanced AOC courses at the 505th CCW, Air War College, and the Air Command and Staff College, lecturing every branch of the military and have participated in hundreds of exercises.

"There's sometimes an initial hesitation," said Capt. Scott Forn, the OCTP deputy director. "But, once participants start to hear the war stories, the 'been-there-done-that' side of an operation, they quickly find some information they can use to effectively employ airpower."

Next week, the senior mentors will meet to discuss their latest lessons learned over the past year and plans for supporting exercises through 2005.

MDG receives glucose meters for diabetics

All patients require training before use

Courtesy of the 16th MDG

As of November, the Hurlburt Field pharmacy began issuing the Precision Xtra monitors and test strips to diabetic patients to improve the quality of their diabetes care.

Prior to receiving the glucose meter, patients are required to take a short training session on how to use the Precision Xtra™ monitor and lancet device.

The Hurlburt Field pharmacy will be issuing the Precision Xtra™ monitors and providing multiple training classes Dec. 20 from 8 a.m. to noon at the base chapel (Building 90203 on Cody Avenue). Each class will start at the top of the hour and last approximately 30 minutes.

Please arrive 10 to 15 minutes early to sign in.

Attendees are welcome to bring their spouse or other family members and friends to the class. If you are unable to attend, a family member may come in your place. Prior to the training, please eat, drink and take the diabetic medication you would normally take on your schedule. Please don't bring old monitors to this training session.

The new Precision Xtra glucose meter is easier to use, requires less blood and is alternate-site capable. The glucose meter can store up to 450 test results, allowing diabetics to see the date, time, day of week, and seven, 14 and 30-day blood sugar averages.

For more information, call 881-2133.

Week in History

The following are extraordinary events in military history that occurred this week:

Dec. 7, 1941 – The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, HI.

Dec. 8, 1941 – The United States declared war on Japan.

Dec. 9, 1956 – The 463rd Troop Carrier Wing received the Air Force's first C-130 Hercules tactical cargo and troop carrier. The four-engine turboprop airlifter has an unrefueled range of more than 2,500 miles, and can take

off and land in about 3,600 feet.

Dec. 10, 1954 – In a rocket-propelled sled run, Col. (Dr.) John Stapp went 632 miles per hour and sustained greater G-force than ever endured in recorded deceleration tests. The test determined that humans can survive ejection from aircraft at supersonic speeds.

Dec. 11, 1941 – Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

Special **OPERATORS**

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566176
2 X 5.00

ARMED FORCES COMM INC
COMMANDO/ AUTO E
567206
3 X 10.00

Airmen may see entitlement adjustments in paychecks

The following pay rates took effect Oct. 1:

Career Enlisted Flyer
Incentive Pay

■Aviation service less than 4 years – \$150/month

■Aviation service over 4 years – \$225/month

■Aviation service over 8 years – \$350/month

■Aviation service over 14 years – \$400/month

Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay (crew member – non AWAC)

■O1 thru 02 – \$150

■O3 – \$175

■O4 – \$225

■O5 thru O6 – \$250

■O7 thru O10 – \$150

■E1 thru E3 – \$150

■E4 – \$165

■E5 – \$190

■E6 – \$215

■E7 thru E9 – \$240

EFCU ACCTS PAYABLE
COMMANDO/ STELLA
566707
4 X 10.00

DOROTHY'S
HAIR CARE
COMMANDO

BOB BAKER
COMMANDO/
RENTAL
563970
1 X 4.00



Photos by Staff Sgt. Ebony Pierre

A Choctawhatchee High School band member (left) plays along with the band during the Fort Walton Beach annual Christmas parade Monday. A Soldier (above) hands out beads to parade goers.

Sights, sounds of Christmas

Hundreds of Hurlburt Field Airmen participate in annual holiday parade

By Amy Oliver
Public Affairs

Hundreds of local area residents lined Eglin Parkway and nearby streets for the annual holiday parade Monday.

More than 100 Hurlburt Field personnel took part in the festive event themed "A Holiday Season of Miracles and Memories."

The parade is held every year on the first Monday of December at 6:30 p.m., and grows larger each year. This year it took two hours for the 110 floats and entrants to complete the route from First Street at Eglin Parkway north to Uptown Station.

In addition to nearly 100 walkers representing various Air Force careers, other 16th Special Operations Wing units represented in the parade included the Honor Guard carrying the colors, the 16th Operation Support Squadron's 32-foot range safety boat, a fuel truck from the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, an ambulance from the 16th Medical Group, a HUMVEE and four four-wheelers from the 16th Security Forces Squadron.

Rounding out Team Hurlburt's parade entry was the 334th Training Squadron, Detachment 1, which featured a five-ton transport vehicle and Tactical Air Control Party trainees in

combat dress. Staff Sgt. Tomas Diaz, 16th SFS, and his military working dog, Sonja, walked the parade route.

"It's important for Hurlburt to participate in these local parades so that we can let the community know what we do every day," said Sergeant Diaz. "For most of them, it's the only time they get to see some of the things we do."

Colonel Tim Hale, 16th SOW vice commander, followed behind the Honor Guard as he waved and threw candy and commemorative 16th SOW wooden nickels to the cheering spectators.

"It was an honor to represent the men and women of Hurlburt Field in this parade," said Colonel Hale. "And I consider Hurlburt's participation our way of saying thank you to the community for all the support they give to us throughout the year."

For 2nd Lieutenant Shannon Ouder, 16th Services Squadron, who also joined in the holiday procession, the festive event also felt purposeful.

"At one point I had goosebumps," she said. "The crowd started clapping for us and thanking us while we walked. It was such an honor giving to the community and them supporting us. It was amazing!"

Hurlburt Field will also participate in Destin's annual holiday parade at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow.



Hurlburt Field Airmen (above) toss beads to the parade crowd Monday. A child (right) dressed as an angel rides aboard a float in the holiday parade. The procession, which took two hours to complete, included 110 floats and displays.



PARTY POOPERS

Don't let home fires extinguish holiday fun

By Inge Lersche
52nd CES Fire Prevention

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany – The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends.

Unfortunately, it's also the time of year when people face a much greater risk of home fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, many house fires occur each year during the holiday season, making it the most dangerous time of year. Officials from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron's fire and emergency services flight offer holiday season fire safety awareness tips to help prevent a fire:

Christmas trees: A dried-out evergreen tree is an extremely dangerous fire hazard. Buy a freshly cut tree; beware of any tree with brittle or shedding needles. Stand the tree on a sturdy, nontrip tree stand. Keep it away from heat sources, such as radiators, television sets and fireplaces. Ensure it does not block room exits.

Don't put the tree in front of balcony doors, which are a secondary means of escape. Check the tree's water level daily and discard the tree when the water absorption stops. When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as "fire-retardant."

Holiday lighting: When decorating with lights, purchase only lights that are certified by Underwriters Laboratory or the equivalent at overseas locations. Use extension cords sparingly. Check for frayed or damaged cords and replace those that show wear and tear. Don't overload electrical outlets, and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. For outside decorations, use only those labeled for outdoor use.

Candles: Exercise extreme cau-

tion when burning candles. Be sure they are kept well away from decorations and other combustible materials. Never leave children unattended in a room with lighted candles. Always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Don't display lighted candles in windows, as curtains may ignite, especially when the window is left open and wind blows a curtain over the candle. Never use candles to decorate Christmas trees.

Holiday parties: Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. Provide guests who smoke with large, deep ashtrays and empty them frequently. After parties, check for discarded cigarette butts inside and under couches and chairs and in trashcans. A cigarette butt left in these places can smolder and ignite into a fire hours later. In the vast majority of cases, it isn't the resulting fire, but rather the initial smoke buildup that kills people as they sleep.

Kitchen fire safety: Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. The rate of unattended cooking fires spikes during the holidays. Never leave the kitchen when something is cooking on the stove and always turn pot handles inward so curious children can't pull the pot down onto themselves. Wear tight-fitting clothes when cooking, as loose clothes can be ignited readily by hot burners.

Don't store items on the stovetop, as they can catch fire easily. Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition; make certain to turn them off when finished cooking. In case of a stovetop fire, attempt to cover the burning pot with a lid, turn the stove off, evacuate the house and call the base fire department from a cell phone or neighbor's house.

For more information, call your fire prevention office.



Photo by Karen DeCarlo

Celebration dance

A 605th Test Squadron staff member shows boys at the youth center some Native American dancing. The Hurlburt Field Native American Committee held an event for base youth Nov. 23 that included performance arts, craft tables and culture dancing.

Taxes: Know when to expect statements



Monday and mailed between Dec. 17 and 29.

■ Annuitant annual statements: available online Monday and mailed between Dec. 28 and 29.

■ Annuitant 1099R: available online Tuesday and mailed between Dec. 27 and 29.

■ Reserve W2s: available online Dec. 27 and mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.

■ Civilian W2s: available online Jan. 6 and mailed between Jan. 10 and 14.

■ Active-duty W2s: available online Jan. 14 and mailed between Jan. 18 and 24.

The following statements are available only by mail:

■ Special compensation for severely disabled 1099Rs: mailed Dec. 17.

■ VSI/SSB W2s: mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.

■ Travel W2s: mailed between Jan. 10 and 11.

■ Savings deposit 1099INTs: mailed between Jan. 10 and 11. (AFPN)

ARLINGTON, Va. — As the end of the year approaches, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced the schedule for distributing 2004 tax statements.

The schedule lists when service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their statements through myPay, and when they can anticipate receiving a paper copy in the mail.

Customers once again can view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Tax statements will be available as follows:

■ Retired annual statement: now available online and mailed between Dec. 17 and 29.

■ Retired 1099R: available online

SHOT, Continued from Page 1

HIV/AIDS; children and teenagers, 6 months to 18 years of age, who take aspirin daily; and household members of high risk patients and out-of-home caregivers of infants under the age of 6 months (Healthy individuals in this category between the ages of 5-49 years old will receive FluMist vaccine).

Until this year, it was mandatory for all Airmen to receive a flu shot. But, with production of what was to be half of the U.S. supply of flu vaccine

recently being halted due to vaccine licensing problems, most DOD personnel have been deferred from receiving the vaccine due to limited supplies.

Officials recently announced there are about 2.2 million service members and high-risk beneficiaries. Troops deployed to the U.S. Central Command theater of operations and to South Korea are DOD's highest priority; the department already has shipped vaccine to those theaters, officials said.

According to DOD officials, healthy service

members who aren't scheduled for deployment will be deferred from receiving the vaccination until the more critical categories receive their shots. The flu is contagious, and depending on the strain, can cause illness or even death. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates, between five and 20 percent of Americans get the flu each year.

For more information call the 16th MDG Public Health office at 881-5625 or the CDC Immunization Hotline at (800) CDC-INFO or visit the Web site www.cdc.gov/flu.



Photo by Airman Cynthia Morrow

O' Christmas tree

Children gather around the 16th Special Operations Wing commander to help him officially light the Hurlburt Field Christmas tree Wednesday at the Air Park.

Prior to the lighting of the tree, the winners of the Greeting Card Contest were announced: first place went to the 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron, the 823rd RED HORSE Squadron placed second, and the 9th Special Operations Squadron followed up in third.

During the remainder of the ceremony, guests were led in the singing of Christmas carols. Santa Claus arrived at the close of the ceremony to bring holiday tidings to the children.

BABY BOOM

Look who's new in pink, blue



Girls

Caitlin Alexis was born Oct. 13 to Staff Sgt. James and Renee Butcher, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron.

Ava Grace was born Oct. 14 to Capt. Paul Allen and Melissa Sfida-Allen, 16th Weapons School.

Lily Elaine was born Oct. 14 to Tech. Sgt. Dustin and Meghan Thomas, 16th Special Operations Squadron.

Mackenzie Brooke was born Oct. 16 to Master Sgt. Floilan and Kristin England, 20th Special Operations Squadron.

Karen Marie Antonia was born Oct. 20 to Staff Sgt. Christopher and Bonnie Koopmans, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Chaela Brianne was born Oct. 21 to Senior Airman Michael and Eileen Harrell, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Kenzie Marie was born Oct. 27 to Tech. Sgt. David and Rikki

Hoar, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron.

Trinity Emelita was born Oct. 28 to Staff Sgt. Juan and Emelita Gonzalez, 16th Security Forces Squadron.

Boys

Prestin Scott was born Oct. 6 to Staff Sgt. James and Christine Parkis III, 16th Security Forces Squadron.

Conner Michael was born Oct. 7 to Staff Sgt. Patrick and Rachelle Bergman, 823rd RED HORSE Squadron.

Sean Patrick was born Oct. 9 to Staff Sgt. Michael and Joan Rusinchak, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron.

Nolan Gene was born Oct. 16 to Staff Sgt. Larey and Holly Dunn, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron.

Andrew Keith Terrance was born Oct. 21 to Senior Airman Everett and Lori Mason, 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

For more information about Sentinels of Freedom, call 884-5008



LOOK RIGHT LOOK BIKE LOOK LEFT

Hurlburt Field Motorcycle Club

Public comments wanted

Facility construction pending response of base community

The final draft environmental assessment and findings of no significant impact for the proposed Combat Control Advanced Skills Training facility is available for public comment.

If approved, the training facility would be built on 6.5 acres of Hurlburt Field.

Implementation of the proposed action would enable Air Force Special Operations Command to sustain mission readi-

ness by meeting training requirements, ensuring sufficient numbers of mission ready Combat Controllers to meet Air Force needs.

The environmental assessment is available for public comment at the base library and the Fort Walton Beach Library, located at 185 SE Miracle Strip Parkway, today through Jan. 10. Comments regarding this issue should be mailed to the following address no later than Jan. 10:

HQ AFSOC/CEV
427 Cody Avenue,
Suite 225, Building 90333
Hurlburt Field, FL 32544

Civilians: Update contact information in AFPC Web site system

The Air Force Personnel Center highly encourages appropriated fund civilians to register in the Emergency Data System through the AFPC secure Web site. EMDS:

- Allows civilian employees to update emergency contact information from any Internet-connected computer, at work or at home
- Takes about 15 minutes to complete
- Includes questions about which relatives/other people should be contacted in an emergency, and the addresses and telephone numbers at which to reach them

Each employee is responsible for keeping the emergency contact information current. Since its inception in May 2003, 35 percent of civilian employees have registered in EMDS. Individual base employee registration varies from just under 20 percent to nearly 80 percent.

SAFETY FIRST: Be prepared for season rush

By Tech. Sgt. Derek Allbrook
16th SFS

The holidays are upon us, so don't get too caught up with the festivities to the point you let your guard down and become a victim.

Follow some of these safety tips to have a safe and happy holiday:

■ Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings

■ Park in well-lit areas, keep windows closed and lock vehicles

■ Don't leave packages, wallets or handbags visible through car windows

■ Don't carry large amounts of cash. If possible, pay with checks or credit cards

■ Shred copies of receipts with credit card numbers on them

■ Don't give personal information such as credit card and account numbers to solicitors over the phone. Additionally, use caution when reciting personal information for cashiers

■ While shopping, keep handbags close to the body, not dangling. Place wallets in the front pocket of pants or

in an inside coat pocket

■ While walking to the car, keep one hand free and keys readily available

■ If you take your children shopping, and they get separated from you, instruct them to go see the store clerk or a security officer

■ Use common sense when shopping online to protect against fraud or identity theft

■ Only shop with companies you know, and make sure the Internet site complies with industry security standards

■ Keep personal information private and passwords secure. Don't respond to requests for your password or credit card information unless you initiate a transaction

Finally, if confronted – particularly by an armed adversary – surrender the money, bag, etc. There's no gift more precious or valuable than the life of one of our Team Hurlburt family members.

The 16th Security Forces Squadron wants you to have a safe and happy holiday.



DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
Call AADD for a free, confidential ride home 884-8844.

Community

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group will close at 11 a.m. Wednesday for training. Normal clinic operations will be in effect until then. The Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open.

Vehicle decals

People are encouraged to update their 2004 vehicle registration decals as they will expire Jan. 1, 2005. The pass and registration office is located in Building 90210. Office hours are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Decals can also be updated at the visitor control center from 6 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday. Motorists must present vehicle registration, driver's license and proof of insurance to receive decal. For more information, call 884-5233.

Post office hours

Until further notice, the U.S. Postal Service located in the mini-mall will operate from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.

Essay and art contests

The Hurlburt Field Youth Program is hosting two Armed Services YMCA-sponsored contests now through Feb. 4, 2005. Art Contest 2005 is geared to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Students in first through twelfth grade are invited to participate in the Essay Contest 2005. Winners will receive U.S. Savings Bonds. Contests are open to dependents of active-duty military and dependents of retired military personnel. For more information, call 884-6355.

Focus 56 meeting

The Hurlburt Focus 56 council is encouraging motivated, innovative staff and technical sergeants to a meeting Dec. 14 at J.R. Rockers at 3 p.m. The group's goals are to educate and guide the number one enlisted force through the 21st century by providing a continual flow of information among junior/senior enlisted and senior leadership assigned to Hurlburt Field. The newly-elected council members will be introduced at the meeting. For more information, call 884-3899.

AFSA meeting

Chapter 567, Air Force Sergeants Association will meet at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the enlisted hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. Mary Gowin at 884-7821 or Senior Master Sgt. Bill Ogden at 884-4957.

MOAA scholarships

Military Officers Association of America is accepting applications for its 2005 Base/Post Scholarship program, which will award 50 scholarship grants of \$1,000 to dependent children of military personnel. For more information or to download an application, visit www.moaa.org.

Disney cruises

Disney Cruise Lines is offering special rates on several cruises for active-duty military personnel. Choose from a three or four-night Bahama cruise filled with spectacular shows, dining and adventure at Disney's private island, Castaway Cay. The three-

Hurlburt Happenings

night cruise rate is \$349 per adult with sailing dates Jan. 6 to Feb. 10. The four-night cruise rate is \$399 per adult with sailing dates Jan. 9 to Feb. 6. Cruises sail round trip from Port Canaveral, Fla., to the Bahamas and Castaway Cay. Rates are based on double occupancy for standard inside staterooms and subject to availability. For more information, call 581-0469.

HOSC luncheon

The Hurlburt Officers' Spouses Club monthly luncheon is set for 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Soundside club. The theme is: holiday party with games and a grab-bag exchange. Each member should bring a grab bag with a favorite holiday item and exchange with another gift giver. Gifts should be valued at approximately \$10. The menu is turkey divine, chef's holiday vegetable or a chicken Waldorf salad. Choices come with dessert, coffee and tea. Cost is \$10 for members; \$12 for non-members. Childcare will be provided for \$3/hour per child; \$2.50/hour for each additional child. Reservations must be made by today; call Karin Heaton at 515-0371.

Munch and Mend

The Hurlburt Field Chapel will host Munch and Mend Monday from 5 to 7 p.m. Airmen can bring one article of clean clothing to have stripes, patches or nametags sewn on or have repairs made, while enjoying a free home-cooked meal. For more information, call Bill White at 884-7371 or Jimmie Thomas at 315-4746.

New Year's Eve celebration

The club members New Year's Eve celebration is set for Dec. 31 at the Soundside club. Two package deals are available: the dinner, dance and breakfast package is \$50 per person; the dance/breakfast package is \$15 per person. The dinner package includes hors d'oeuvres at the social and a glass of red wine with dinner. Complimentary champagne and party favors are included in both packages. The Ted Shumate Band will perform smooth jazz and urban contemporary music. The schedule is as follows: social at 7 p.m., dinner from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., dancing at 9 p.m. and breakfast at 12:30 a.m. For more information, call the 884-7507 or see the ad in the 16th Services Squadron's Marlin Monthly.

AFAS scholarships

The Air Force Aid Society is offering \$1,500 grants through the Gen. Henry H. Arnold Education Grant program. The following people are eligible: sons/daughters of active-duty members; Title 1 AGR/Reservists on extended active-duty; Title 32 AGR performing full-time active-duty; retired Reservists with 20 plus qualifying years of service; spouses of deceased Air Force members; spouses of stateside active-duty members, Title 10 AGR/Reservists of extended active duty. For more information or an application, visit www.afas.org.

Palace Chase

The Air Force Reserve is accepting applications for the Palace Chase Force Shaping program. Members who are considering leaving active duty early can transfer into the Air Force Reserve without paying back bonuses, and keep many of the same benefits. Opportunities are available in the United States and overseas. Members can also retrain into a different career field. For more information, call Master Sgt. Angela Edwards at 884-2656 or visit <https://intranet.eglin.af.mil/AFReserve/hurlburt.htm>.

Air Force TV and Radio News



To check out Air Force TV or Radio News visit: <http://af.feedroom.com> or www.af.mil/news and click on TV or radio to find out what's happening around the Air Force.

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request
Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September–May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)
11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)
Religious Education: August–May
Youth and Singles groups available
Jewish Services (882-2111)
Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center
Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
For more information, call 884-7795

At the movies



Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday and Sunday – (PG-13) *The Grudge*, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar and William Mapother – An American student working with a Japanese health center for college credit, comes across a mysterious curse. She finds herself embroiled in a fight for her own sanity and her survival. Known as a "grudge," the curse was born inside of a house after its inhabitants died consumed by rage.

Saturday – (R) *I Heart Huckabees*, starring Jason Schwartzman and Isabelle Huppert – A plucky couple, the Jaffes, like to play detective. Their latest case: a miserable retail worker named Albert Markovski and his archenemy, Brad. Albert has faced a series of odd coincidences in his life, and he's hoping his new detective pals can help him figure out the meaning of being born. When Brad, an executive at the retail superstore Huckabee's, learns of the detectives, he's determined to hire the pair.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday – (PG-13) *Ray*, starring Jamie Foxx and Kerry Washington – Ray Charles went blind at the age of 7. With the staunch support of his single mother, he developed the fierce resolve, wit and incredible talent that would eventually enable him to overcome not only Jim Crow Racism and the cruel prejudices against the blind, but also discover his own sound which revolutionized American popular music. Nonetheless, as Ray's unprecedented fame grew, so did his weakness for drugs and women, until they threatened to strip away the very things he held most dear.

Saturday – (PG) *The Incredibles*, an animated film – A dysfunctional family of famous superheroes is placed in a quiet suburb by the Witness Protection Program in order to protect them from their archenemies. But, their peaceful existence is hardly that, with family disagreements sprouting up even during fights with the bad guys. And when the world is threatened, Mr. Incredible must go back to work to save the planet.

Sunday – (R) *Alfie*, starring Jude Law and Marisa Tomei – Alfie, a Don Juan-esque limo driver, speaks directly to the camera as he seduces the lovely ladies of New York City, womanizing them from one bed to the next. While his actions arise more from nonchalance than malice, Alfie faces a moral dilemma when considering he's impregnated one of his latest girlfriends.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm dates.)

NY Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 13CX1, 1NOX1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3A/B, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A752, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 2T2X1, 3E0X1, 3E0X2, 3E1X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X3, 3E7X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 3S0X1, 4A0X1, 4D0X1, X4N0X1 and 6C0X1. For more information, call Master Sgt. Reeves at DSN: 344-2457.

- Volunteer opportunities -

Science fair judges

Volunteers are needed to judge the Okaloosa-Walton Science and Engineering Fair set for February. Individuals qualified in the following disciplines are desired: behavioral health, botany, health and medicine, microbiology, zoology, chemistry, engineering, math, computers, physics, etc. Judging will take place Feb. 7 - 11 at the Okaloosa County Fairgrounds at 3:30 p.m. The deadline to volunteer is Dec. 30. For more information, call 2nd Lt. Alyson Smith at 882-5418.

Tax representatives

The base tax center is looking for volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Volunteers should plan

on working four hours each week preparing taxes until April 15. VITA training will be conducted at Eglin Air Force Base during the morning hours Jan. 3-7. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Amanda Fekete at 884-6119 or Bobby Watts at 884-4352.

Dental volunteers needed

The Eglin Dental Service is accepting applications for the Red Cross Volunteer Dental Assistant Training Program. The program is six months long; the next class begins Jan. 10, 2005. For more information, call 883-8324/8325.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is looking for individuals to volunteer during the holidays. Those interested should call to schedule dates. For more information, call Maria Holloway at 243-4531.

Classes

Part-Day Enrichment Program

The child development center has openings in the Part-Day Enrichment Program for children ages 3-5. The three-day class is held Monday, Wednesday and Friday; the two-day class is held Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The monthly fee is based on total family income. For more information, call the CDC at 884-6664.

ERAU spring registration

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University spring registration will run Monday - Jan. 7 in Building 90220 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 581-2106.

HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center. For more information, call 884-4292.

Healthy Living Workshop - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.
Fitness Improvement Program - Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program - Tuesday, 1 p.m.

Eating Heart Healthy - Tuesday, 1 p.m.
Fitness 101 - Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Total Fitness Enhancement - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Diabetic Nutrition Follow-Up - Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Lean On Me - Wednesday, 11 a.m.
Prenatal Nutrition - Thursday, 9 a.m.

Prenatal Fitness - Thursday, 10 a.m.
Physical Training Leader Training - Today, 8 a.m., 1 p.m.

TROY STATE UNIVERSITY
COMMANDO/ CLASSE
565175
2 X 5.00

RHINO LININGS OF OKALOOSA
COMMANDO/ ADVANC
566778
3 X 5.00

Squadrons go off beaten path

Intramural cross-country sends runners back to nature, off road

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

The first-ever Hurlburt Field intramural cross-country season is underway with three races down and two more to go until it concludes Jan. 7.

Runners go head to head on the two to six-mile-long courses, which vary from hills and fields to swamps and forests, to earn the lowest number of points for their squadron.

The first race started and finished at the 1.5 mile start post on REDHORSE Road. The second race began and ended at the Soundside club, and the third began at the confidence course adjacent to the Aderholt Fitness Center.

The point system is based on the total number of points for each squadron in each race. At the end of the last race, all five race totals are added together for the squadron's season point total.

Each runner receives points at the finish of their race based upon the place in which they arrive. For example, if a runner finishes second, he will receive two points for his team. The squadron with the lowest number of points out of all five races is the season winner.

Members who wanted to participate, but didn't belong to a squadron, were placed in a players pool. When a squadron has a vacant spot, runners from the players pool would be placed in those slots.

Each squadron is allotted 10 roster slots for the season, however, only the five fastest runners will be competing for points.

Currently, the 20th Special Operations Squadron Blue leads the season with 223 points, the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron AST 1 follows in second place with 251 and Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command is tight on their heels with 254 points.

In the future, Hurlburt Field would like to compete against other base intramural cross country leagues. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa at 884-4412.

Race to finish

SQUADRON	POINTS
20th SOS Blue	223
23rd STS AST 1	251
HQ AFSOC	254
23rd STS AST 2	370
505th CCW	397
25th IOS	426
20th SOS Red	427
39th IOS	564
18th FLTS	660
23rd STS First There	825

Note: The squadron with the lowest number of points will be deemed the season winner

Intramural cross country season standings



Runners cross a shallow creek near the Soundside in race two of the intramural cross-country season.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tamara Rosa

Cross-country runners dash through a wooden area during the second race of the season.

Sports shorts

Racquetball tournament

The Hurlburt Field Fitness Centers, in conjunction with the Emerald Coast Racquetball Club, will host the Emerald Coast Racquetball Fall Classic Saturday. Matches will be held at both the Aderholt and Commando Fitness Centers. Start time is 8 a.m. The round-robin format tournament is set with each player set for four matches with a single elimination playoff to follow. Both age and skill divisions are available. Entry fees are \$20 for the first event (singles) and \$15 for second event (doubles only). The first five novices who sign up will have their entry fee reimbursed upon check-in. For more

information e-mail Ross Smith at RCS111@aol.com or Bob Talley at btal@cox.net, or John Proctor at 884-6884.

Basketball season

Intramural basketball is set to begin this month. For more information about these programs, call Tech. Sgt. Bernice Stoffel at the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884 or call the health and wellness center at 884-4412.

Ten-mile Challenge

The 12th annual 10-mile Challenge will be

Saturday at the Aderholt Fitness Center. Check-in is at 6:30 a.m. with the race starting at 7 a.m. Runners of all ages are invited to attend. Trophies for each category will be awarded. For more information, call 884-6884/4412 or 881-5121.

Rugby players wanted

The Okaloosa Rugby Football Club is looking for new players at all levels of experience for the winter and spring sessions. Each session includes physical training and rules of the game. For more information, call John Colletta at 882-6128 or e-mail john.colletta@eglin.af.mil.